



February 29, 2012

T3- Surrounded by opportunities Acts 4:32-35

Leader Notes

Objectives:

WHAT: God wants us to be sensitive and responsive to the people you encounter in your “sphere of influence”

WHY: God gives you daily opportunities to demonstrate his love and compassion to people around you.

HOW: Pray that God would open doors daily and give you the necessary strength to obey.

Opening Prayer

Make sure you take time each week to open in prayer.

Let’s write out a prayer together as a group. Ask God to open your hearts to what we are about to do together through this T3 study. If you’re worried or afraid, ask God for peace and strength. If you’re excited or eager, ask God to use your group to calm your spirit. Make it a point to record your initial prayer of preparation as you enter this new challenge together.



Kicker Notes:

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**What part of your sphere of influence has the biggest need for a spiritual spark?
Explain your answer.**

What is one deed that could start a spiritual “blaze” of kindness and compassion in our community? Why might just one deed’s impact spread like wildfire?

How could just ONE choice or decision today- a simple “spark” - affect the rest of your life?

DISCUSSION

Discussion Notes:

Give each person a piece of paper, and draw 4-5 circles. Write down the names of people in several of your "spheres of influence."

Choose one person from one of the circles. How might ONE act of compassion or generosity specifically affect that person's life?

What specific act could you perform for that person?

Tell me about a time that someone showed you kindness or compassion. What happened, and how did this affect and impact you?

Think about your day today. As you reflect, can you recall any missed moments for serving or helping other people? Why do you think we let those opportunities slide past us?

If we decided to pay more attention to all the opportunities God brings your way, how would you go through your day differently? What changes might you make to your routines?

BIBLE

Salt and light have an **AFFECT** (Not an **Effect**) on their surroundings. Things change because of salt and light.

Leader:

Like it or not, each of us has earned a reputation. It may be accurate or it may be unfair- but your reputation often shapes the way other people view you and interact with you.

What if you had a reputation as someone who changed the world?

Do you know any people who change the world around them everywhere they go?

Someone read Acts 4:32-35

Where did these believers' actions come from?

(Their spirit of unity and knowledge that this 'stuff' wasn't theirs in the first place!)

Sounds kinda idealistic, right? How would your world change if you lived like that?

Try to come up with a word picture of what this would look like in our world today.

Someone read Matthew 5:13-16.

What is going on in this verse? Salt? What?

What do you think it means for Christians to experience unity? How do you know if a group of Christians is genuinely united?

What are some of the benefits and positive results of unity among Christians?

Why would the Bible mention that there were no needy people among those early Christians?

Bible Notes:

CRUNCH

CRUNCH NOTES:

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Leader:

Now we are going to take a few minutes to review some of the plans and assignments we made last week. Pull out your notes, and I would like to talk about your assignments and what you've been able to accomplish in the past week.

Remember: YOU as the leader will not participate in the actual challenge, and your teenagers need to take full responsibility for all the tasks. This will give them greater ownership, but more importantly, it will give them a chance to directly experience God's answers to prayer.

Some of your students may not have done anything with their assignments over the past week. Don't criticize them, and don't let anyone in the group be negative towards them. Use tonight to help build up your team motivation.

SO WHAT

So What Notes:

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Leader:

I want us to take a minute to reflect on our challenge.

What things have we learned about being stewards so far? Has this begun to change the way you think about anything going on in your life?

What have we learned about each other through this process?

What things do you see God doing in our group?

How can we help each other be fully prepared and equipped for our challenge?

CLOSE IN PRAYER-

FOCUS ON YOUR SPHERES OF INFLUENCE